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INFORMATI~~SECRET~~PORT

COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 2 December 1948

SUBJECT Italian Firms Purchase Merchandise
for Satellite Countries~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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1. It is reported that various firms in Trieste and Italy have been trying to buy merchandise from the United States, supposedly for the Italian market, but that the orders actually came from satellite countries to which the material would finally go.
2. In this connection, it has been reported that the Trieste firm of "Mercantile," via Roma, owned by Guilielmo Hossak, of Trieste, and Max Hermann, formerly a Rumanian, is attempting to buy tires and 500 trucks from the United States, these to be shipped via Amsterdam to Bulgaria.
3. Another firm reported was Commercio Generale Estero, recently founded by Rumanians in Milan. The nominal head of the firm is an Italian, Chiozzio (fnu), but it actually is run by four Rumanians who are buying electrical equipment for Rumania.
4. The newly founded export-import firm, Fukaro, Milan, is managed by a Hungarian national, J. Fuellep. This firm approached United States businessmen for aid in purchasing 2,000 jeeps from Army Surplus offices in Europe, supposedly for Italian customers, but actually to be resold to Rumania.

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